

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for treating pigments in particulate form,
the process comprising the following steps:

- a) mixing a pigment in particulate form with at least one nonionic surface-active substance,
- b) dispersing the thus obtainable mixture of pigment in particulate form and nonionic surface-active substance in an aqueous medium,
- c) addition polymerizing at least one first monomer or addition copolymerizing a first mixture of comonomers in the presence of a dispersion obtained after b) to form water-insoluble polymer or copolymer at the surface of the pigments in particulate form, and
- d) adding at least one second monomer or a second mixture of comonomers and addition polymerizing or copolymerizing.

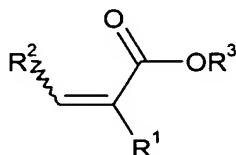
Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1 wherein a polymer or copolymer having a glass transition temperature T_g of about 0°C is prepared in ~~step~~ d).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1 wherein a polymer or copolymer having a glass transition temperature T_g of 30°C or higher is prepared in ~~step~~ d).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1 wherein a polymer or copolymer having a glass transition temperature T_g of below 20°C is prepared in ~~step~~ d).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the pigments in particulate form are organic pigments.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein said first monomer is a vinyl-aromatic compound or is a compound of the general formula I



~~where~~wherein

R¹ is selected from hydrogen, branched or unbranched C₁-C₁₀-alkyl,

R² is selected from hydrogen, branched or unbranched C₁-C₁₀-alkyl, and

R³ is selected from branched or unbranched C₄-C₁₀-alkyl.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein said first mixture of comonomers is a mixture of at least one vinyl-aromatic compound and at least one compound of the general formula I.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein R¹ and R² are both hydrogen in one compound of the general formula I.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein said second monomer added is a monomer of the general formula II



~~where~~wherein

R⁴ is selected from hydrogen, branched or unbranched C₁-C₁₀-alkyl,

R⁵ is selected from hydrogen, branched or unbranched C₁-C₁₀-alkyl, and

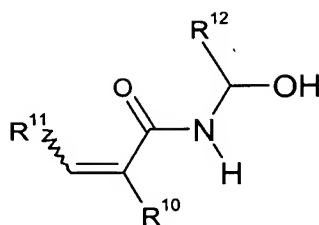
R⁶ is selected from branched or unbranched C₁-C₁₀-alkyl.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein said second mixture of comonomers comprises at least one monomer of the general formula II.

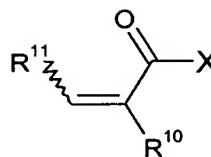
Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, wherein R⁴ is hydrogen or methyl and R⁵ is hydrogen in one compound of the general formula II.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~either of claims 10 and 11~~ claim 10, wherein said second mixture of comonomers comprises at least one comonomer selected from vinyl-aromatic compound and a compound of the general formula I.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1, wherein ~~step d~~ is carried out in the presence of up to 5% by weight, based on said second mixture of comonomers, of at least one compound of the formula V a or V b



V a



V b

wherein

R^{10} to R^{12} are the same or different and are each selected from hydrogen and branched or unbranched C_1 - C_{10} -alkyl,

X is selected from hydrogen, glycidyl, protonatable groups having tertiary amino groups and enolizable groups having 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): Treated pigments in particulate form, obtainable by a the process according to any of claims 1 to 13 claim 1.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of treated pigments in particulate form according to claim 14~~ A method for producing colorant preparations, comprising: - providing treated pigments in a particulate form according to claim 14 to a colorant preparation.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of treated pigments in particulate form according to claim 14~~ A method for producing inks for the ink jet process, comprising: - providing treated pigments in a particulate form according to claim 14 to an ink composition.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of aqueous dispersions of treated pigments in particulate form according to claim 14 as or~~ A method for producing inks for the ink jet process, comprising: -

providing an aqueous dispersions of treated pigments in a particulate form according to claim 14 to an ink composition.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): Inks for the ink jet process according to ~~either of claims 16 or 17~~ claim 16.

Claim 19 (Original): A process for printing substrates by the ink jet process using inks according to claim 18.

Claim 20 (Original): The process according to claim 19 wherein said substrates are textile substrates.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): Printed substrates obtainable according to claim 19 ~~or 20~~.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): ~~Use of treated pigments in particulate form according to claim 14~~ A method for coloration of a textile or a leather, the method comprising: -

providing treated pigments in a particulate form according to claim 14.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A process for coloration of textile, ~~which comprises~~ the process comprising:

treating textile substrates with at least one treated pigment in a particulate form according to claim 14.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A dyeing liquor for textile dyeing, comprising at least one treated pigment in a particulate form according to claim 14.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A print paste for textile printing, comprising at least one treated pigment in a particulate form according to claim 14.

Claim 26 (Original): A colored textile substrate obtainable by a process according to claim 14.

Claim 27 (Cancelled).

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A process for coloration of leather, ~~which comprises~~ comprising:

treating predyed leather with at least one treated pigment in a particulate form according to claim 14.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): An aqueous bottoming dispersion comprising:
at least one treated pigment in a particulate form according to claim 14; and ~~also~~
at least one of the following constituents: at least one wax, at least one biocide, or at least one binder.

Claim 30 (Original): Colored leather obtainable by a process according to claim 28.

Claim 31 (Original): Footwear produced from colored leather according to claim 30.